

Interior Alaska Service Unit

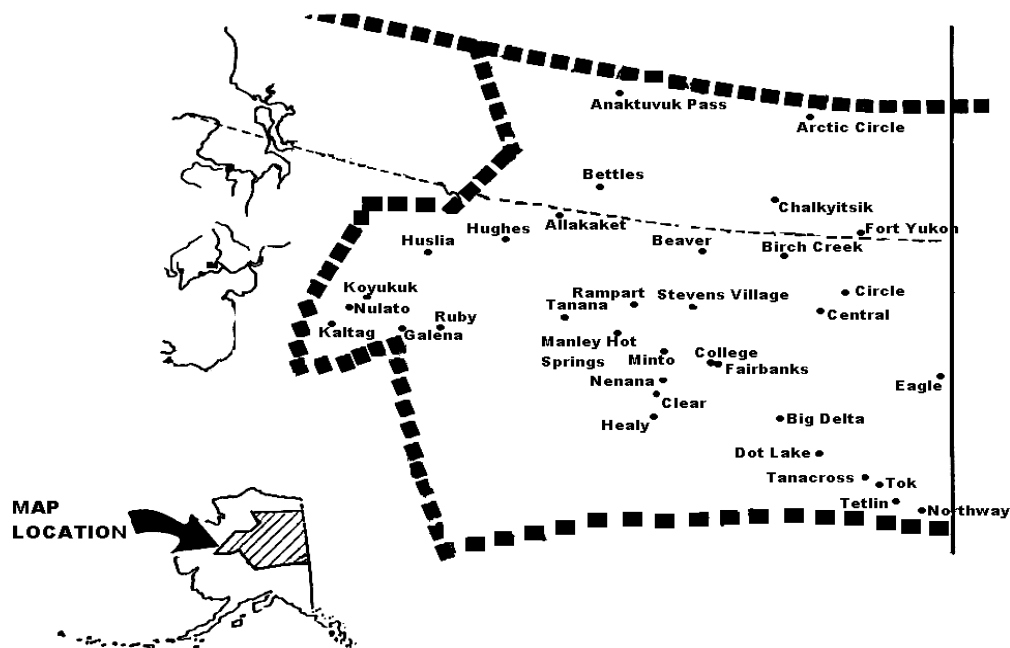
OVERVIEW

Alaska Native 1998 User Population.

INTERIOR ALASKA SERVICE UNIT	12,604
Council of Tribal Athabascan Tribal Governments	1,230
Tanana Chiefs Conference	11,055
Tanana Tribal Council	319

Users are defined as beneficiaries who used a facility that reports through the IHS data system at least once between 10/1/95 and 9/30/98.

Environmental Factors. The Interior Alaska Service Unit covers about 167,644 square miles with Fairbanks as the largest city. The region contains over 37 percent of the State of Alaska. Rolling hills, rambling rivers and towering Denali (Mt. McKinley) and the Alaska Range dominate the landscape.



The weather changes dramatically from season to season. In winter, it can be as cold as -65 degrees below zero and summer as warm as 95 degrees. The average temperature is -10 degrees below zero in January and 65 degrees in July. In June and July, daylight lasts 21 hours and nights are only twilight. Conversely, December nights are 21 hours long and the 3-hour days are bright but short. Normal annual precipitation is 11.67 inches, with an annual average snowfall of 50 inches. When temperatures drop below -20 degrees and the wind is

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calm, the heat and moisture from buildings and automobiles creates ice fog around settlements, which may persist for days. Interior residents learn to adapt to all weather conditions.

Several major rivers flow through the territory. The Tanana River bisects the Interior Alaska Service Unit from the Canadian border to its confluence with the Yukon River. The mighty Yukon River stretches across the service unit from the Canadian border to a point beyond Holy Cross. Finally, the upper Kuskokwim River flows into the territory, north of its confluence with the Stony River.

This vast area contains five subregions:

Upper Kuskokwim. The Upper Kuskokwim subregion includes the territory of the headwaters of the Kuskokwim River and its various forks. McGrath is the subregional center. Tanana Chiefs Conference (TCC) operates the McGrath Health Center in space leased from the City of McGrath. McGrath receives its inpatient, medical, dental and specialty outpatient medical care through the Anchorage Service Unit.

Upper Tanana. The Upper Tanana subregion encompasses the vast region from the Canadian border west to the Fairbanks North Star Borough, north on the Taylor Highway to Eagle, and south to the Alaska Range. Tok is the subregional center. Tanana Chiefs Conference contracts with the Tok Clinic for outpatient visits at the Tok Clinic.

Yukon Flats. The Yukon Flats subregion contains the Yukon River area from Twelve Mile House north of Eagle to west of Beaver, including the Chandalar, Porcupine, and Black River drainages. Fort Yukon is the subregional center. From 1980 to June 1994, the Tanana Chiefs Conference operated the Yukon Flats Health Center in Fort Yukon. The Council of Athabascan Tribal Governments (CATG), a non-profit tribal organization located in Fort Yukon, now operates the Yukon Flats Health Center, and other health programs in these villages. TCC continues to provide physician field services and contract health care.

Yukon Koyukuk. The Yukon Koyukuk subregion consists of the area around the confluence of the Yukon and Koyukuk Rivers from Ruby to Kaltag and Huslia to Koyukuk. Galena is the subregional center. TCC contracts with the City of Galena for outpatient medical and dental visits at the Galena Health Center for patients in this subregion. TCC also supports activities of the Galena Community Mental Health Center through a small subcontract.

Yukon Tanana. The Yukon Tanana subregion takes in the territory between the North Slope Borough boundary and Denali National Park. Communities include those on the Tanana River area from Nenana to Tanana. Fairbanks is the subregional center. Through agreement with the Indian Health Service, Anaktuvuk Pass is also included in

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the Interior Service Unit. It is also part of the North Slope Borough. The Tanana Health Center is also located in this subregion and is operated by the Tanana Tribal Council.

The indigenous Native people of Interior Alaska were primarily Athabascan Indians. Anaktuvuk Pass is part of the Arctic Slope tribe and an Eskimo community, but is located in the Interior Alaska Service Unit. Today a significant Eskimo population resides in Fairbanks, and other American Indian/Alaska Native tribes receive care through the service unit.

Utilities. Fairbanks has all the utilities of a modern city. Interior Alaska Service Unit residents residing along the road systems also have utilities. Residents in remote villages off the road system use outhouses, pack their water and have access to a Public Health Service (PHS) fee-for-service laundry facility with showers. Some of the homes have modern services such as piped water, but many of the homes have no running water, or solid waste facilities (toilets).

Communications. Fairbanks has full communication linkages. Plans are underway to implement Community Health Aide dial in modem access to patient records in resource patient management system (RPMS). Tanana Chiefs Conference plans to connect with T1 service to the Alaska Native Medical Center through the Chief Andrew Isaac Health Center in Fairbanks which will coordinate the connections between Interior villages and the statewide system. Approximately 35% of Native village homes do not have a working telephone according to a TCC 1998 Native household survey.

Transportation. Fairbanks is the transportation hub for Interior Alaska. Complete jet service is available in Fairbanks with daily flights to Seattle, Anchorage and various communities within the State. Forms of transportation vary widely, and travel is often difficult or expensive. Some highway villages have motor vehicle access only during the summer months. All other communities are accessible by air, by boat during the summer, and by dogsled or snowmachine in the winter. In extreme weather conditions, travel by any means is simply not practical and villages become very isolated once airplanes stop flying at -45 degrees or colder. There can be days or weeks during the winter when airplanes are grounded and villages are cut off completely.

Housing. Housing is scarce and living conditions are inadequate in most rural villages of the Interior Alaska Service Unit. PHS government housing is not available in Fairbanks, but ample housing exists. Additionally, Fairbanks has over two dozen major hotels and motels.

Education. Education is available to all students in the region. Seven rural school districts serve the villages and the Fairbanks North Star Borough School District operates twenty elementary schools, four junior high schools, one junior senior high school, and five high schools. A special education center and vocational training center are also available in Fairbanks. The University of Alaska in Fairbanks is home for the internationally known Geophysical Institute as well as other major Arctic research facilities. Limited University of Alaska courses are also available in the subregional centers and through distance learning.

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Natural Resources. Fairbanks serves as the trade center for Interior and Northern Alaska. Agriculture, mining, and fish and game are the major natural resources. Gold mining production and tourism in the Fairbanks area have increased significantly in the past few years.

Economic Conditions. Residents of rural Alaska rely heavily on subsistence hunting, fishing and trapping. Wage and salary employment is limited in the Interior Alaska Service Unit, and the government is the chief employer in all subregions. Because of seasonal jobs, dramatic fluctuation occurs in unemployment rates. Recent emphasis on village-based economic development projects, tourism and entrepreneurial activities may hold the key to a stronger rural economy, increased employment and a decrease in seasonal fluctuation. Other significant contributors to the Interior economy include the University of Alaska-Fairbanks, Eielson Air Force Base and Fort Wainwright Army Post, which are all near Fairbanks.

Annual Average Labor Force for Interior Alaska Region for 1997

	Unemployed	Employed
Interior Region	4,107	45,524
Denali Borough	144	1,128
Fairbanks North Star Borough	3,319	40,418
Southeast Fairbanks	315	2,239
Yukon-Koyukuk	329	1,740

Source: State of Alaska, Department of Labor, Research and Analysis Section, Alaska Economic Trends, April 1998, p12.

Tribes. The Interior Alaska Service Unit is home to a number of tribal health organizations which provide various services to eligible IHS beneficiaries. Listed below, under each tribal health organization, are the Federally recognized tribes receiving healthcare services primarily from that organization.

Council of Athabascan Tribal Governments (CATG)

Arctic Village Traditional Council - P.O. Box 22059, Arctic Village, AK 99722
Beaver Traditional Village - P.O. Box 24029, Beaver, AK 99724
Birch Creek Traditional Village - P.O. Box KBC, Birch Creek, AK 99740
Chalkyitsik Traditional Village - P.O. Box 57, Chalkyitsik, AK 99788
Circle Traditional Council - P.O. Box 89, Circle, AK 99733
Native Village of Fort Yukon IRA - P.O. Box 126, Fort Yukon, AK 99740
Native Village of Venetie Tribal Government - P.O. Box 81080, Venetie, AK 99781

Tanana Chiefs Conference (TCC), Inc.

Allakaket Traditional Council - P.O. Box 50, Allakaket, AK 99720
Alatna Traditional Village - P.O. Box 70, Alatna, AK 99720
Village of Anaktuvuk Pass - General Delivery, Anaktuvuk Pass, AK 99721
Dot Lake Traditional Council - P.O. Box 2279, Dot Lake, AK 99737
Eagle IRA Council - P.O. Box 19, Eagle, AK 99738
Evansville Tribal Council - P.O. Box 26087, Bettles, AK 99726
Galena Tribal Council (aka Loudon Village) - P.O. Box 244, Galena, AK 99741
Healy Lake Traditional Council - P.O. Box 60300, Fairbanks, AK 99706
Hughes Traditional Council - P.O. Box 45029, Hughes, AK 99745
Huslia Traditional Council - P.O. Box 70, Huslia, AK 99746
Kaltag Traditional Council - P.O. Box 129, Kaltag, AK 99748
Koyukuk Traditional Council - P.O. Box 109, Koyukuk, AK 99754
Manley Hot Springs Traditional Council - P.O. Box 23, Manley, AK 99756
McGrath Traditional Council - P.O. Box 134, McGrath, AK 99627
Minto Traditional Council - P.O. Box 26, Minto, AK 99758

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Nikolai Native Village Council (Edzeno' Native Council) - P.O. Box 9105, Nikolai, AK 99691
Nenana Traditional Council - P.O. Box 356, Nenana, AK 99760
Northway Traditional Council - P.O. Box 516, Northway, AK 99764
Nulato Traditional Council - P.O. Box 65049, Nulato, AK 99765
Rampart Traditional Council - P.O. Box 67029, Rampart, AK 99767
Ruby Traditional Council - P.O. Box 210, Ruby, AK 99768
Stevens Village IRA Council - P.O. Box 16, Stevens Village, AK 99774
Takatna Traditional Council - General Delivery, Takotna, AK 99675
Tanacross IRA Council - P.O. Box 76009, Tanacross, AK 99776
Telida Native Village Council - P.O. Box 9104, Nikolai, AK 99629
Tetlin IRA Council - P.O. Box TTL, Tetlin, AK 99779

Tanana IRA Region

Tanana Tribal Council - P.O. Box 77130, Tanana, AK 99777

Other places of residence in the Interior Service Area not Federally Recognized as Tribes.

Alcan	Chatanika	Fox	North Pole	Wiseman
Anderson	Chicken	Indian River	Salcha	Wood River
Big Delta	Clear	Kokrines	Tok	
Canyon Village	Delta Junction	Lake Minchumina	Toklat	
Central	Fairbanks	Medfra	Tolovana	

DESCRIPTION OF HEALTH-CARE DELIVERY SYSTEM

Tanana Chiefs Conference, Inc. On September 28, 1984, the Tanana Chiefs Conference, Inc. (TCC) assumed responsibility for health service delivery in the Service Unit under a P.L. 93-638 contract with the Indian Health Service. Since then, additional P.L. 93-638 agreements with other Interior tribal organizations have further changed the service delivery system. The health center in Fort Yukon was operated by TCC from 1980 through June 1994. The Council of Tribal Athabascan Governments (CATG), a non-profit entity located in Fort Yukon, assumed operations of the health center in June 1994, and operation of most other village health programs in October 1996. In addition, the Tanana Health Center is now operated by the Tanana Tribal Council.

The TCC Health Services Department is the principal direct provider of health care services to 35 of the 43 villages in the Interior region. While considered member tribes of the Tanana Chiefs Conference, Inc., villages in the Lower Yukon (Anvik) subregion receive all healthcare through the Yukon-Kuskokwim Delta Service Unit. All other villages in the region, including Anaktuvuk Pass receive some services through the TCC.

The TCC Health Services mission is to *“promote and enhance the spiritual, physical, mental and emotional wellness”* of those served. To do this, the Department provides a variety of direct medical and dental patient care, behavioral health, environmental health and health

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education services. In 1999, TCC obtained "Network" accreditation by the Joint Commission on Accreditation of Healthcare Organizations for the first time. This designation expands accreditation to all health programs rather than just the ambulatory care services at the chief Andrew Isaac Health Center.

Coordinator/Instructors work out of the subregional villages of Galena, McGrath, Tok and Fairbanks and supervise Community Health Aides in 26 villages. A regional instructor and the CHAP Program Director are based in Fairbanks. TCC physicians in Fairbanks provide additional back up and telephone consultation except for Community Health Aides in the McGrath subregion. Physician back up for these villages comes from the Southcentral Foundation at the Alaska Native Medical Center.

The following Interior Alaska Service Unit villages have community health aide programs managed by Tanana Chiefs Conference:

Allakaket	Healy Lake	Manley	Nikolai	Takotna
Dot Lake	Hughes	McGrath	Nulato	Tanacross
Eagle	Huslia	Minto	Rampart	Tetlin
Evansville	Kaltag	Nenana	Ruby	
Galena	Koyukuk	Northway	Stevens Village	

The following villages have community health aide programs managed by the Council of Athabascan Tribal Governments:

Arctic Village	Birch Creek	Circle
Beaver	Chalkyitsik	Venetie

TCC Mental Health and Alcohol Programs operates the TCC Counseling Center in space leased from (and in) the Fairbanks Memorial Hospital. Limited assessment, therapy and psychiatric services are available. The Counseling Center provides psychiatric back up services for the Tok, Yukon Flats, Yukon-Tanana and Galena Mental Health programs. In addition, outpatient mental health and alcohol services are provided through field visits to Fairbanks subregion villages by Yukon Tanana Counseling Services staff. Local paraprofessional alcohol services are provided to villages in the Upper Tanana subregion through the Upper Tanana Alcohol Program. Clinical supervision for the Yukon Tanana and Upper Tanana programs is provided through the TCC Counseling Center. The Yukon Tanana Counseling Services employs professional itinerate counselors and three paraprofessional counselors while the Upper Tanana Alcohol programs employs eight paraprofessional counselors.

TCC Mental Health and Alcohol Programs provide statewide adolescent residential substance services through a joint venture contract with Fairbanks Native Association at the Graf Rheeneerhaanjii, "The Healing Place." This 16-bed program includes activities ranging from counseling to cultural awareness and continuing education while in treatment. The Graf Rheeneerhaanjii is one of two IHS-funded adolescent treatment facilities in Alaska. The program is located just outside Fairbanks on land leased from the IHS.

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The Paul Williams House provides temporary housing for clients traveling from the villages for specialized mental health services. It also provides short-term, supervised housing for the chronically mentally ill who have been stabilized and released from the hospital, and temporary housing while case managers obtain permanent housing for the client. Temporary housing is also available when the family of a chronically mentally ill patient needs a break from the daily stresses of caring for a mentally ill family member. The Paul Williams House is located a few blocks from the Fairbanks Memorial Hospital.

TCC's Rural Health Services department offer a variety of services. The Bertha Moses Patient Hostel provides temporary housing for patients while in Fairbanks for an appointment or while receiving treatment. The Hostel is located just across the street from the Fairbanks Memorial Hospital. Patient stays are coordinated through the Village Community Health Aides and/or the local Community Health Representative.

The Community Health Representative (CHR) program provides a variety of village-based services by paraprofessional health providers. CHR services include home visits, patient advocacy and patient education. They are also available to assist the Elders with transportation to medical facilities and as an escort when family members are unavailable. CHRs work at the village clinics in Galena, Huslia, McGrath, Minto, Northway and Tok.

Through health education, TCC encourages individual responsibility for personal healthcare and injury prevention training. The Community Health Services Department provides prevention education in health, safety, accident prevention and nutrition by health educators located in Galena, Tok, McGrath and Fairbanks. An Injury Prevention Specialist is also located in Fairbanks and performs regional prevention services.

The Family Recovery Camp is designed to provide treatment services for people who have experienced dependency on alcohol or other drugs. The program operates in a traditional setting without running water or electricity. Participants are expected to assist in all camp activities, including the gathering of subsistence foods, packing water and gathering firewood. Up to 15 people can be served in the camp, and children may join their parents while the parents receive treatment. The length of stay is 35 days and includes individual and group counseling. The approach emphasizes Athabascan Indian values, traditions and culture.

The Dental Clinic is located at TCC's main office in downtown Fairbanks. A full range of preventive and restorative dental services are available. The Dental Clinic also provides limited oral surgery, pediatric care, endodontics (root canal therapy) and orthodontics under contract with specialty providers. TCC's Dental program also provides complete, comprehensive dental services through field visits to villages in the Upper Tanana, Yukon Koyukuk and Yukon-Tanana subregions. Modern, portable dental equipment and TCC dentists, assistants and hygienists are used. Hospital-based care is available for the very young and disabled patients as time permits and as funds allow.

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The Optometry Clinic is also located in TCC's main office in downtown Fairbanks. The Optometry Clinic expanded its services in May 1995 to offer contact lens on a fee-for-service basis. In 1998, staffing increased to include two optometrists, one licensed optician and two apprentice opticians.

One of the primary goals of the Office of Environmental Health (OEH) is to assist communities in obtaining and maintaining safe sanitation disposal systems. OEH is comprised of three branches of service to Tribes in the TCC region. Environmental Health Specialists provide technical support and service relating to environmental issues affecting public health and safety. Engineers assist Tribes with sanitation facility management, operation and maintenance issues and project planning. Remote Maintenance Workers provide hands-on training, operation and maintenance and trouble shooting assistance to water plant operators. Other environmental health issues addressed by OEH include: rabies control, food sanitation, hazardous materials management, safety, infectious disease investigation and institutional health.

Fairbanks Native Association. Fairbanks Native Association (FNA) provides alcohol and drug abuse services through several programs: short-and long-term residential treatment for adults plus a dual diagnosis residential treatment for adult clients with mental health and substance abuse problems; an outpatient/continuing care program for adults and youth; an inmate substance abuse program for inmates at Fairbanks Correctional Center; the Fairbanks Alcohol Safety Action Program for individuals charged and convicted of alcohol-related misdemeanors; a 12 hour emergency shelter for homeless and near homeless chronic inebriates, and a long-term residential treatment program for chronic alcoholics with psychosis.

Name and Location of Hospitals/Health Centers/Clinics.

Tribal health organizations operate health centers in Fairbanks, Tanana, McGrath, and Ft. Yukon. The city of Galena operates a health center there and Tok has a privately operated health center.

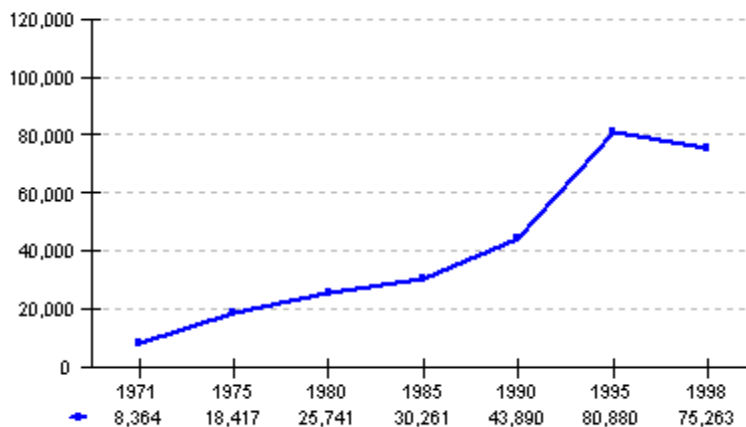
Chief Andrew Isaac Health Center, Fairbanks. The Chief Andrew Isaac Health Center (CAIHC) is the regional outpatient clinic which provides the only specialty care in the Service Unit, through contract health care and by referral to ANMC. This 26,773 square-foot health center is located on the third and fourth floors of the Fairbanks Memorial Hospital. This location allows TCC to take advantage of the private hospital's radiology and laboratory facilities.

In addition to medical care, the CAIHC also offers a full range of health services including services in pharmacy, public health nursing, outreach programs, prenatal care, well-child care, health screening, patient education, FAS prevention, nutrition counseling, WIC and Elders' assistance. TCC maintains special diabetes and cancer registries and provides special tracking and follow up of patients with these medical conditions.

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Inpatient care for the Service Unit is now provided through a contract with the Fairbanks Memorial Hospital. Not all specialty services are available in Fairbanks. Inpatient cardiology burn/thermal treatment, trauma, level III newborn intensive care, rehabilitation services and reconstructive surgery are sent to the ANMC in Anchorage for referral. Nuclear medicine and some orthopedics are also sent to ANMC for treatment and referral.

**Chief Andrew Isaac Health Center
Outpatient Workload: FY 1971 - FY 1998**



Source: Indian Health Service Inpatient/Outpatient Reporting System in Albuquerque, APC Report 1A.

**Chief Andrew Isaac Health Center
Leading Causes of Outpatient Visits: FY 1994 - FY 1997**

All Age Groups	FY 1994	FY 1995	FY 1996	FY 1997
Upper Respiratory Problems	4,140	4,180	4,172	4,296
Neuroses & Non-Psychotic Disorders	2,111	2,944	2,935	4,271
Immunization	2,580	2,439	4,602	4,000
Family Planning	3,086	2,534	2,122	3,815
Psychoses	966	3,515	2,907	3,814
Accidents & Injuries	2,237	2,586	2,556	3,281
Refractive Error	2,844	2,778	2,483	2,505
Bone & Joint Disorders	1,186	1,576	1,792	2,319
Prenatal Care	1,257	1,456	1,685	2,079
Gynecologic Problems	1,517	1,806	1,707	1,994

Source: Indian Health Service Inpatient/Outpatient Reporting System in Albuquerque, APC Report 1C.

McGrath Health Center. McGrath is located along the banks of the Kuskokwim River, 220 miles northeast of Anchorage. The McGrath Health Center is owned by the City of McGrath, leased to Public Health Service and operated by the Tanana Chiefs Conference, Inc. Field medical, dental and optometry services are provided by the Southcentral Foundation. The

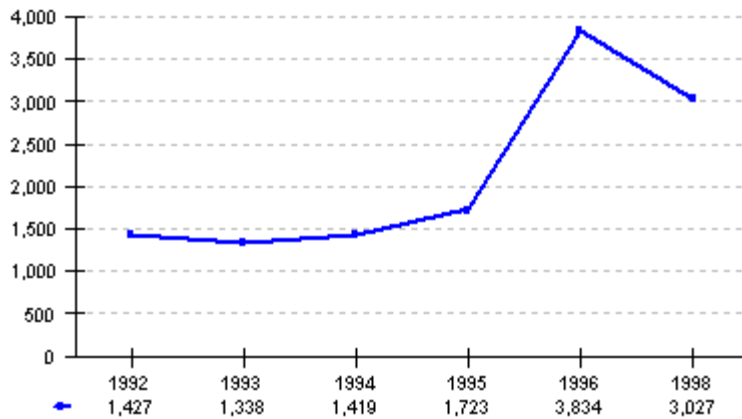
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population is served through the Anchorage Service unit and most beneficiaries are referred to ANMC for hospital care. Acute, preventive and emergency medical care is provided by a full-time mid-level practitioner and two health aides.

Tanana Tribal Council Health Center. Lying 138 miles west of Fairbanks, the Tanana Alaska Native Health Center is within the former PHS hospital compound. The Tanana Tribal Council

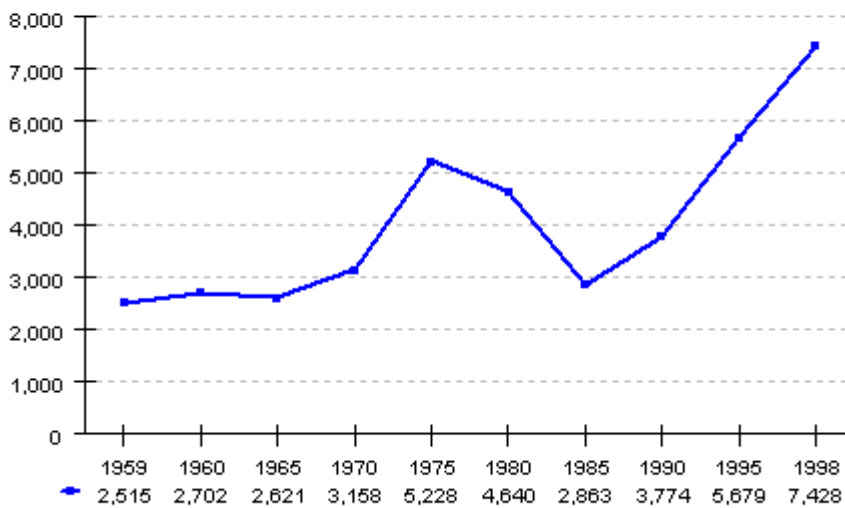
operates the Health Center. Facilities include the clinic building, two units of housing and five service buildings. In early summer of 1984, a newly-renovated health center began serving residents of the community. TCC provides field dental, medical and optometry visits to the community.

**McGrath Health Center
Outpatient Workload: FY 1992 - FY 1998**



Source: McGrath Health Center's local data system.

**Tanana Health Center
Outpatient Workload: FY 1959 - FY 1998**



Source: Indian Health Service Inpatient/Outpatient Reporting System in Albuquerque, APC Report 1A.

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Tanana Health Center Leading Causes of Outpatient Visits: FY 1994 - FY 1997

All Age Groups	FY 1994	FY 1995	FY 1996	FY 1997
Upper Respiratory Problems	362	440	107	336
Otitis Media	217	297	71	141
Accidents & Injuries	143	190	59	140
Tests Only	58	82	23	101
Bone & Joint Disorders	92	90	33	96
Refractive Error	107	41	33	57
Immunization	31	47	20	51
Urinary Tract Disorders	66	50	12	51
Hypertension	16	23	14	50
Gynecologic Problems	25	36	22	47

Source: Indian Health Service Inpatient/Outpatient Reporting System in Albuquerque, APC Report 2C. Fiscal Year 1995 was the only complete year of diagnostic reporting.

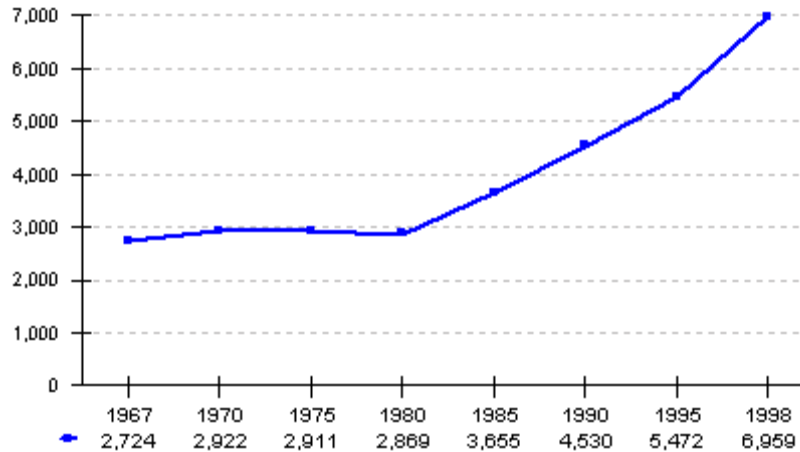
Yukon Flats Health Center. The health center located in Fort Yukon is operated by the Council of Athabascan Tribal Governments (CATG), and is 140 miles northeast of Fairbanks. Previously, TCC operated the facility. Services at the Health Center include primary ambulatory care, emergency care and referral. Dental care will be added once a dentist is recruited. The CATG operates the Community Health Aide Program, the Community Health Representative Program, and the Health Education Program at the Yukon Flats Health Center. CATG also operates the CARE Center Mental Health and Substance Abuse program which provides outpatient, outreach, referral, crisis intervention, case management, and prevention/education services in the Yukon Flats villages. TCC also provides contract health services and physician field visits.

The Yukon Flats Health Center's (YFHC) location consists of one building and three houses. Staff includes three mid-level practitioners (Physician Assistants or Family Nurse Practitioners). Currently, there is one Nurse Practitioner, who is the Clinical Director, and a second Nurse Practitioner. The third position, Coordinator/Instructor for the Community Health Aide Program, has been filled with a Family Nurse Practitioner. Other Health Center staff include: one Medical Assistant, one Community Health Representative/Health Education Coordinator, one Patient Registration/Medical Records Technician, one RPMS Site Manager/Billing Clerk, one half-time Patient Travel/Data Entry Clerk, one Housekeeper, and one Maintenance Supervisor. The Dental Clinic has one dental assistant, and a part-time Program Assistant, who is responsible for dental patient registration, records, data entry and billing. The CARE Center has one Clinical Director/Clinician, one Program Assistant, and one Counselor/Case Manager, and two Village Counselors.

The Yukon Flats Health Programs provide health care to the following communities of the Yukon Flats Region: Arctic Village, Beaver, Birch Creek, Canyon Village, Chalkyitsik, Circle, Venetie, and Fort Yukon.

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**Yukon Flats Health Center
Outpatient Workload: FY 1967 - FY 1998**



Source: Indian Health Service Inpatient/Outpatient Reporting System in Albuquerque, APC Rep

**Yukon Flats Health Center (Fort Yukon)
Leading Causes of Outpatient Visits: FY 1994 - FY 1997**

All Age Groups	FY 1994	FY 1995	FY 1996	FY 1997
Upper Respiratory Problems	218	783	300	553
Accidents & Injuries	39	639	163	436
Alcohol Abuse	69	343	263	228
Tests Only	55	416	35	222
Otitis Media	117	320	255	192
Medical/Surgical Follow-up	36	230	44	184
Immunization	28	112	47	175
Refractive Error	100	107	103	137
Neuroses & Non-Psychotic Disorders	40	143	142	109
Physical Examinations	16	90	34	86

Source: Indian Health Service Inpatient/Outpatient Reporting System in Albuquerque, APC Report 1C.
Fiscal Year 1995 was the only complete year of diagnostic reporting.

NON-TRIBAL HEALTH AGENCIES AND FACILITIES AND TYPES OF SERVICES PROVIDED TO SERVICE POPULATION

Contract health medical services are provided by the privately operated Tok Clinic. TCC dental program provides regularly scheduled service to IHS beneficiaries in the Tok area utilizing the Tok Clinic. The Tok Area Mental Health Center provides mental health services for patients in that subregion.

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Public health nurses work throughout the Interior Alaska Service Unit under the direction of the State of Alaska, Division of Public Health. They provide immunizations, maternal and child health services and preventive health services to the villages within Interior Alaska.

A health center, operated by the City of Galena, 282 miles west of Fairbanks, offers medical services to TCC beneficiaries in the Yukon Koyukuk subregion. Behavioral health services are also operated by the City of Galena. TCC provides the dentist at the clinic and helps support the local community mental health center.

Outpatient surgery, CAT scans, MRI and ultrasound services for residents of the Interior Alaska Service Unit are provided by various private vendors in the Fairbanks area.

HEALTH SERVICES AND FACILITIES PLANNING ISSUES

The following are facility modifications and additions to meet future projected demands at the **Yukon Flats Health Center (YFHC) in Fort Yukon.**

1. Inadequate space available. In order to conduct patient education, the YFHC will need to add on (construct/remodel) a 60 foot by 30 foot area. Confidentiality issues are a concern as voices are easily heard from room to room. This is also a problem with the existing examining rooms. With confidentiality being one of the identified priorities to address, privacy should be taken into consideration during the construction process.

The YFHC dental clinic's equipment and physical area is inadequate to insure the delivery of dental care in compliance with Centers for Disease Control, OSHA, and ADA policies and regulations. No separate disinfection, sterilization and laboratory spaces exist. Remodeling should be a priority.

In addition, the 60 foot by 30 foot area will meet the need required for future activities. The program expansion to include prevention activities and other activities involving the community, (i.e., support group sessions, EMT classes, CPR/First-aid classes, etc.) will require additional space. Currently there is no space available for these activities.

2. Biohazards. To-date there is no efficient methods to dispose of biohazards (i.e., "sharps"). The Yukon Flats Health Center incinerator has been dismantled due to environmental considerations. The existing incinerator may require a clean-up process consistent with handling hazardous materials. A new incinerator is now being considered.
3. Additional Telephone Lines. Additional lines are needed to support telecommunications equipment. Currently there are three lines into the Health Center that support a fax, computer modem, emergency-line, and normal telephone communication. Additional needs are being planned with CATG Telecommunications project.

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Fairbanks Health Facilities. Fairbanks Health Facilities include the 26,773 square-foot Chief Andrew Isaac Health Center (CAIHC) facility in Fairbanks in the Fairbanks Memorial Hospital. However, this primary medical facility is separated by several miles from TCC's dental and optometry clinics, and from the Health Education, Rural Health, Environmental Health, Health Administration, and Business Office. Unification of all health services and programs under one roof and close to the CAIHC is a long-term goal. Co-location of all TCC health programs is prevented from inadequate lease space in the Fairbanks Memorial Hospital and a 20-year lease which keeps CAIHC in its current location.

The Patient Hostel is scheduled for a feasibility plan to add an additional wing to increase low-cost, adequate housing for village patients and escorts requiring health services in Fairbanks. This is a need for storage space for all facilities located in Fairbanks. Currently facilities are using contracted space.

The **McGrath Health Center** delivers medical services to the five villages in the surrounding area, is in need of additional space because of expanded services, and more involvement with expanded services and the addition of a second physician assistant.

HEALTH STATUS OF ALASKA NATIVES LIVING IN THE INTERIOR ALASKA SERVICE UNIT

Mortality.

The following table displays the Interior Alaska Native deaths by age and the three-year average crude death rates per 100,000 population.

**Interior Alaska Service Unit
Alaska Native Deaths by Age and
Three-Year Average Crude Death Rates per 100,000 Population**

	1995	1996	1997	1998	3 -Year Rate
Total Deaths	72	74	67	66	603.4
Age at Death:					
under 5	6	4	4	1	
5-9	0	0	0	0	
10-14	0	1	0	0	
15-24	2	6	2	12	
25-44	17	15	7	12	
45-64	14	16	22	9	
65+	33	31	32	32	
Age Unknown	0	1	0	0	

Leading Causes of Death	1993-1995 /4		1994-1996 /4		1995-1997 /4		1996-1998 /4	
	AI/AN	U.S.	AI/AN	U.S.	AI/AN	U.S.	AI/AN	U.S.
1) Heart Disease	110.1	281.3	111.2	280.7	136.1	276.4	119.5	268.2
2) Malignant Neoplasms /2	137.6	205.2	111.2	204.9	100.6	203.4	99.1	200.3
Lung Cancer	33.6	57.4	30.1	57.5	29.6	57.3	29.1	59.1
3) Unintentional Injuries (Accidents) /1	131.5	35.1	144.3	35.5	118.4	35.8	93.3	36.2
Motor Vehicles	39.7	16.3	42.1	16.5	35.5	16.5	17.5	16.1
Water Transport/Drowning	36.7	1.6	30.1	1.7	23.7	1.6	26.2	1.6
4) Alcohol Related /3	42.8	7.7	51.1	7.7	44.4	7.5	52.5	7.4
5) Suicide	76.4	12.0	66.1	11.9	35.5	11.6	46.6	11.3
6) Cerebrovascular	33.6	58.9	21.0	60.1	26.6	60.3	26.2	58.6
7) Chronic Obst. Pul. Diseases	18.3	39.0	21.0	39.2	23.7	40.0	26.2	41.7
8) Homicide	27.5	9.6	24.0	8.7	17.8	7.9	23.3	6.8
9) Cirrhosis	18.3	9.8	18.0	9.6	14.8	9.4	17.5	9.3
10) Pneumonia & Influenza	21.4	31.3	21.0	31.6	11.8	31.6	14.6	34

1/ Does not include injuries purposefully inflicted or injuries undetermined whether purposefully or accidentally inflicted. Motor Vehicle and Water Transport/Drowning are also counted in the total Accidents; it does not include alcohol related deaths.

2/ Lung Cancer is included in Malignant Neoplasms.

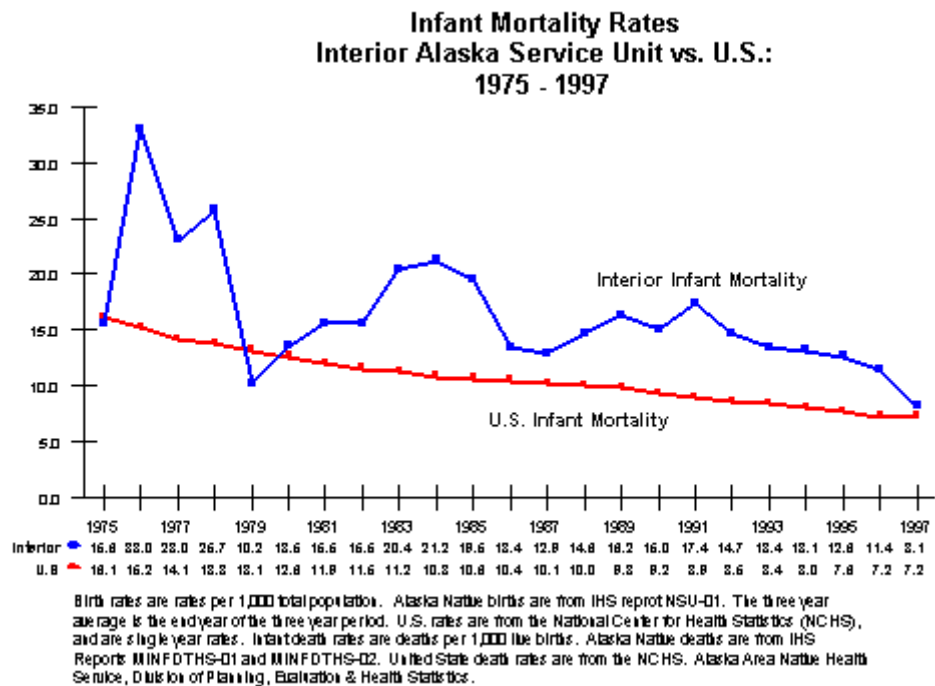
3/ Alcohol Related deaths include alcoholic psychoses, alcohol dependence syndrome, alcohol abuse, alcoholic liver disease and cirrhosis, alcoholic polyneuropathy, alcoholic cardiomyopathy, alcoholic gastritis, excessive blood level of alcohol, and accidental poisoning by alcoholic beverages and ethyl alcohol.

4/ Causes not included when deaths average less than one per year in 1995-97. Single year rates for U.S. Alaska Area Native Health Service, Division of Planning, Evaluation & Health Statistics.

Interior Alaska Service Unit

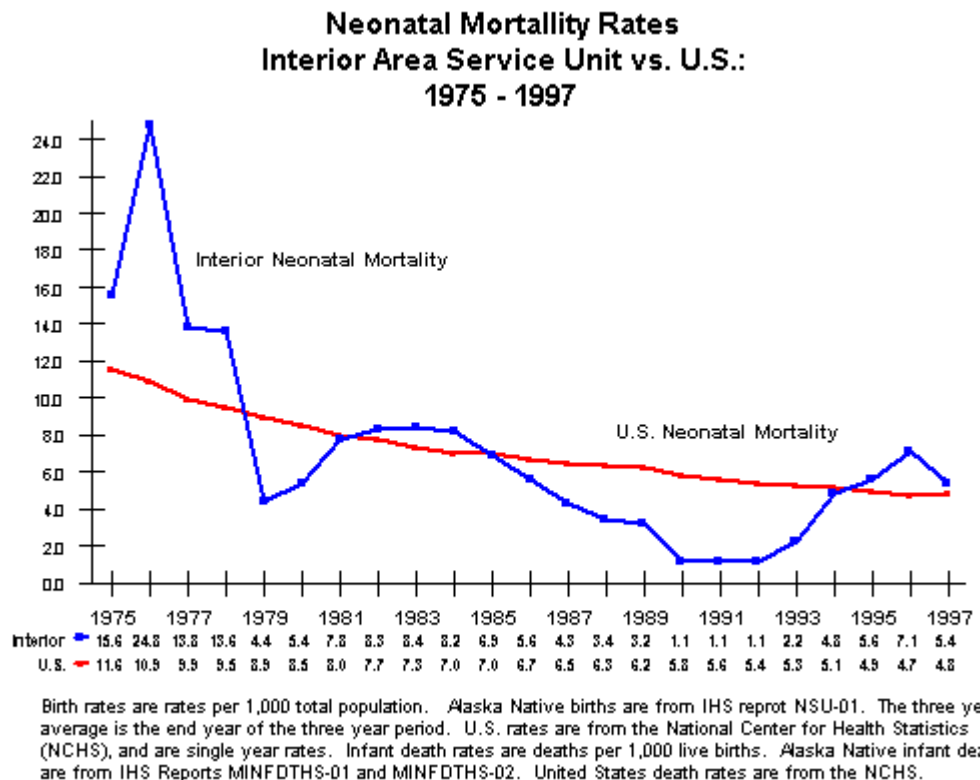
Infant Mortality.

The following graph compares the Interior Alaska Service Unit Native and U.S. infant mortality for the years 1975 to 1997.



Neonatal Mortality.

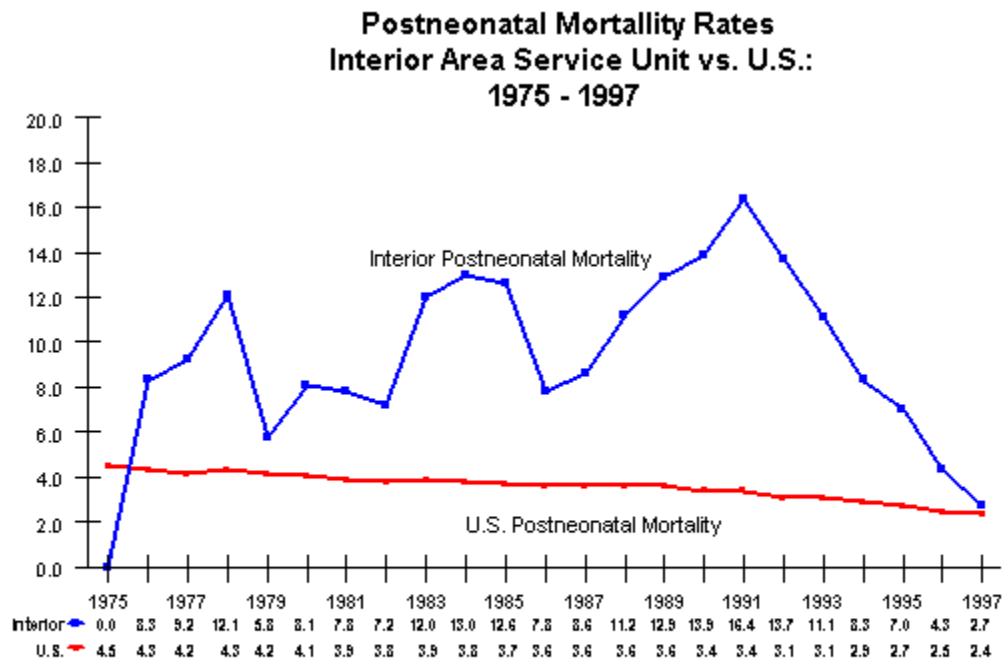
The graph compares the Interior Alaska Native rate to the U.S. neonatal mortality rate.



Interior Alaska Service Unit

Postneonatal Mortality.

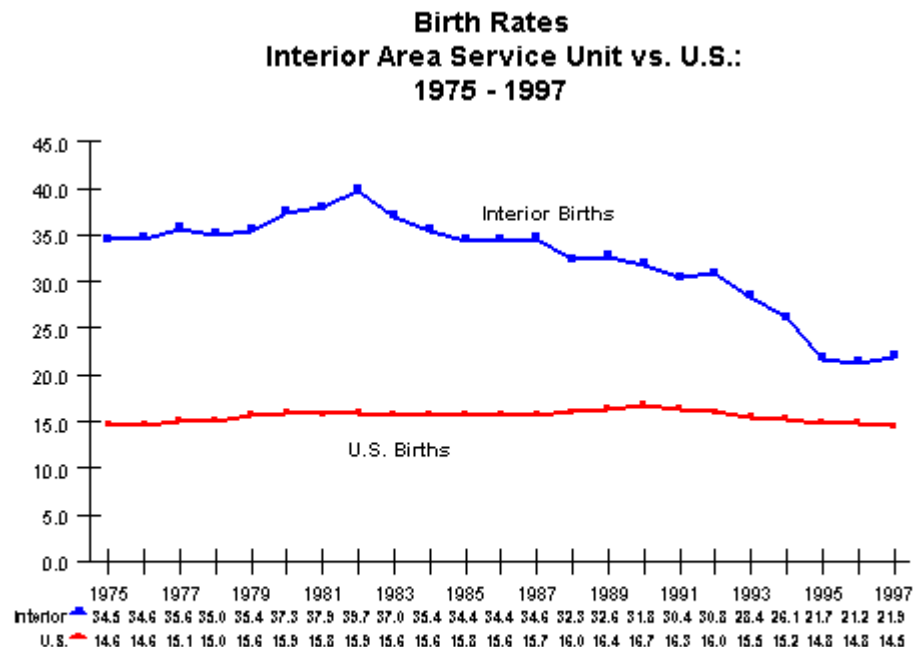
The following graph compares the Interior Alaska Native and U.S. postneonatal mortality rates.



Birth rates are rates per 1,000 population. Alaska Native births are from IHS report NSU-01. The three year average the end year of the three year period. U.S. rates are from the National Center for Health Statistics (NCHS), and are single year rates. Infant death rates are deaths per 1,000 live births. Alaska Native infant deaths are from IHS Rep MINFDTHS-01 and MINFDTHS-02. United States death rates are from the NCHS.

Birth Rates.

The following graph compares the birth rates between the Interior Alaska Service Unit Natives and the U.S.



Birth rates are rates per 1,000 population. Alaska Native births are from IHS report NSU-01. The three year average the end year of the three year period. U.S. rates are from the National Center for Health Statistics (NCHS) single year rates.